The Super-Duper Handy Dandy Guide to All Things *Communications*

By yours truly, ***Ori!***

CONTENT WARNING: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS DESCRIPTIONS OF GORE, INJURY/DEATH, SUICIDE/SELF-HARM, ABUSE, BULLYING AND BODY DYSMORPHIA. PLEASE HEED ALL WARNINGS CONTAINED IN LINKS TO EXTERNAL CONTENT.

Foreword

Communications is a canceled series, and this document is in no way meant to advocate for a reboot, recreation, relaunch or re-anything of the series. It's merely meant to share information about a world and story that I'm passionate about! Also, take EVERYTHING with a grain of salt-- most of the information within is based at least partly on cross-referenced tales passed around the metaphorical fire, so it may be inaccurate (although I have made attempts to make it as truthful as possible!)

Introduction: Who is GHOST and what is Communications?

GHOST, who's also gone by Ghost & Pals, Marz Mitzi and Ghostie, is (or rather, was; they're inactive on the music scene for personal reasons nowadays) a music producer known mostly for working with Vocaloid, as well as for their distinctive 'distorted' sound. Many of their songs were meant to tell the stories of various original characters, and Communications was no different-- it was supposed to be a four-part, twelve-song long series that told three different stories (called 'cases'), then tied them all together at the end. It was, however, put on hiatus and then canceled for good halfway through Case 2 due to concerns about ableist themes, clunky story details and the massive workload of writing twelve songs (plus intros and outros, and drawing PV art).

Did You Know?

- The name 'Communications' comes from the common thread between all of the series' characters-- each is based on a form of communication or a device used to do so, and each character's form of communication plays a heavy role in their story.

Case 1

Track-list

- Introduction track
- Daina- Rotary Dial (Associated with: Frances Elsner)
- Dex- Black & White (Associated with: Henry Elsner)
- Gumi- Housewife Radio (Associated with: Nancy Elsner)

Synopsis

A young man named Henry Elsner, living under the influence of Frances Elsner, his abusive mother, meets a woman named Nancy, who completely fascinates him. They become friends, and eventually Henry partially cuts ties with his mother to marry Nancy. However, Frances continues to harass Henry, calling him on the phone several times a day and complaining about Nancy nonstop. Eventually, Henry decides he's had enough, and completely cuts Frances out of his life without hesitation.

Nancy, however, begins to fear that Henry might do the same to her, begins having emotional breakdowns & being more clingy towards Henry, and ends up murdering him as he attempts to sneak away in the dead of night (due to her behavior reminding him too much of his mother). She then begins experiencing hallucinations that he's still alive. Her color-sound synesthesia also causes her to hear the radio shows she listens to as black and white-- the same color she heard Henry's voice as. As soon as she realizes the truth, she's overcome with grief and commits suicide, while Frances, who wanted them both dead anyway, learns about their deaths on the news and lives a significantly long, peaceful life

Did you know?

- *Black & White*'s PV is the goriest of the officially-released Communications PVs-- although the original versions of *Colorbars* and *Broadcast Illusion* depict scars, *Black & White* has an illustration of a pool of blood and of Henry with his neck slashed open.

- In *Housewife Radio*, Nancy has pins and needles sticking out of her arm, possibly to symbolize or emphasize her emotional numbness.

- Frances Elsner is one of two characters with a color vision issue-- she has achromatopsia, or a complete absence of color vision. Kennith Simmons in Case 2 is the other, and has tetrachromacy, which causes him to see *more* colors than normal.

Case 2

Track-list

- Introduction track
- Fukase- Colorbars | Fukase- Broadcast Illusion (Associated with: Kennith Simmons. Both songs tell the same story, Broadcast Illusion is a remake of Colorbars.)
- Instrumental- Sign-Off Intrusion (Associated with: Stephanie Glass. Demo, originally intended to use Avanna's voice-bank.)

Synopsis

A boy named Kennith Simmons, who is bullied for various reasons (including his effeminate manner of dressing, problems with his vision (tetrachromacy, specifically) and attraction to men), befriends a deaf girl named Stephanie Glass. They're each others' only friends, though Stephanie attempts to teach Kennith how to stand up to his bullies. However, one of his classmates, Evelynn Jacot, begins to stealthily manipulate him, eventually causing an argument between him and Stephanie that results in the two ending their friendship.

In a vengeful, frustrated haze that continues to be fed by Evelynn, Kennith hijacks a television station and uses it to broadcast a hypnotic program called COLORBARS. He commits suicide during the course of the program, along with everyone who had tuned into his broadcast... all, that is, except Stephanie, who couldn't hear the audio that was required to catch viewers in the trance. She's devastated by Kennith's death, and is left behind to cope with her own despair.

Did you know?

- Sign-Off Intrusion uses samples from Nashville, Tennessee's EAS alerts. However, Case 2 takes place in Michigan.

- Kennith originally had self-harm scars on his wrists and thighs. However, they were removed after Kennith cos-players started to draw or tattoo scars on themselves.

- Stephanie Glass is sapphic, and dated a girl named Jenny in college after Kennith's death. Jenny was not, however, a character created by Ghost— she was a fan-made character who was later canonized after Ghost decided they liked her!

- There is one other character in Case 2— Greg Hoffman, a side character who was friends with Stephanie and acquaintances with Kennith. He p

Case 3

Track-list

- Instrumental- IMAGE (Associated with: Bri Rodez. Partial demo, originally intended to use Maika's voice-bank. This is the only Case 3 song that we know of the existence of. It lacks an intro or outro, and as such, was likely a very early concept.)

Synopsis

Bri Rodez, an autistic teenager with a special interest in photography, joins a forum online to share their work, and befriends a few local photographers (including one named Avery Martin, who they enter a romantic relationship with-- remember her, she'll be important later). However, they struggle with body dysmorphia and heavily edit any photo they post of themselves, and though most people don't notice or care, a small group of trolls sense metaphorical blood in the water.

Another forum member named Simon starts targeting, harassing and cyberbullying Bri, which ultimately culminates in him doxing them, leaking unedited photos of them, and causing them to spiral into a deep depression. After holing up in their room for weeks and almost starving to death, Bri is hospitalized and Avery goes on the search for Simon with the intent of reporting him to law enforcement. However, when she finds him, it's atop a very, very tall building, and Simon came prepared-- he's armed with a gun. In such close quarters, tensions end up increasing enough that Simon shoots and lethally wounds Avery, who, in her last moments, tackles him over the edge of the building in a fatal bear hug of mutually assured destruction.

Did you know?

- Bri Rodez's last name was originally going to be Rhodes, but it was later changed to reflect their Hispanic heritage. Unusually, the surname Rodez is extremely rare, and is not a typical surname in Mexico, Bri's country of origin.

- Simon's eye color is inconsistent— in one of Ghost's illustrations, they are depicted as being a steely ice-blue, however, they are depicted as brown in another.

- Simon is aromantic and asexual, but refuses to accept or acknowledge it.

- Bri is one of the shortest members of the Communications cast, measuring in at 5'2" or 157 cm, and they and Avery are tied for the title of the youngest cast member at 15 years old.

Case 4 | The End

Track-list

Unavailable

Synopsis

Case 4 is the most poorly-documented of the cases, but nonetheless, there's some for-sure information on it: A 'storyteller', quite literally named The Storyteller, reveals the other three cases to have been fictitious events, each written with the darkest, most unexpected or most unsatisfying ends possible in order to provoke a reaction from their fandom.

Did you know?

- The Storyteller has four different personas, one for each case: Ray Barnett for Case 1, Evelynn Jacot for Case 2, Nathan (who has no surname) for Case 3 and their true form, usually referred to as [SPOILERS].

- Case 4 is not always counted as a true 'case', but is labeled as such here for convenience. It is unknown whether or not it would be structured the same as the other three cases, with an intro and a song for each character.

Contact

Have some feedback? Ideas for improvement? Questions? Just want to share some thoughts?
Contact me on...
Discord: Kiritanpo#1340
Vocaverse: @Kiritanpo